

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8622

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINTS, RO

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF FURTHER PERSONNEL SHIFTS CONTINUE

1. RUMORS OF FURTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE IN BUCHAREST, PROBABLY REFLECTING CONTINUED SENSE OF UPHEAVAL IN LEADERSHIP BUT WITH SPECIFICS PROBABLY FAR FROM DECIDED.

2. MOST RECENT RUMOR, WHICH IS EXTREMELY WIDESPREAD, HAS MACOVESCU BEING REPLACED AS FOREIGN MINISTER. NAMES BEING BANDIED ABOUT AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS INCLUDE STEFAN ANDREI (WHO WOULD ALLEGEDLY COMBINE THIS MINISTERIAL JOB WITH SECRETARIAT DUTIES, IN THIS VERSION) AND STRANGELY, ION ILIESCU, THE FORMER PARTY SECRETARY WHO WAS BANISHED IN 1971 AFTER CEAUSESCU ATTACKED HIM BY NAME IN IDEOLOGICAL DEBATES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT RUMOR OF MACOVESCU'S SUPPOSEDLY IMPENDING OUSTER IS BEING DISSEMINATED MAINLY BY EE SOURCES (ESPECIALLY BULGARIANS) AND DOES NOT PURPORT TO CITE AUTHORITATIVE ROMANIAN SOURCE.

3. RUMORS OF NICULESCU-MIZIL'S SUPPOSEDLY INTENDED DEPARTURE FOR A COUNTY SECRETARY JOB CONTINUE TO ABOUND WITH GALATI BY FAR THE MOST FREQUENTLY CITED DESTINATION. ALTHOUGH ADDITIONAL

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RUMORS HAVE MIZIL MAKING FAREWELL CALLS ON MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OFFICIALS, HE IS STILL QUITE VISIBLE AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS IN BUCHAREST. SOME SOURCES SAY EDUCATION-SOCIAL SCIENCES RESTRUCTURING REPORTED IN BUCHAREST 1847 ARE STILL NOT FIRM DUE TO INSTITUTIONAL RESISTANCE. RUMORS STILL HAVE DUMITRU POPESCU BEING OUSTED, MOST COMMON VERSION BEING INTENDED DESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR TO U.S.\*

4. YUGOSLAV COUNSELLOR REPORTS THAT DALEA WILL NOT BE MEMBER OF PERMANENT BUREAU FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT HE IS ABOUT TO LOSE HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF TRADE UNIONS TO HIS DEPUTY, WHO HAPPENS TO BE ELENA CEAUSESCU'S BROTHER, GHEORGHE PETRESCU.

5. MEANWHILE, ON SLIGHTLY FIRMER FOOTING, EXCO MEMBER GHEORGHE RADULESCU TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THERE ARE TEN MEMBERS OF PERMANENT BUREAU ALTHOUGH HE THEN, SOMEWHAT FUMBLINGLY, CALCULATED COMPOSITION OF BUREAU IN WAY THAT WOULD ADD UP TO ELEVEN. HIS LIST WAS IDENTICAL WITH THAT GIVEN IN BUCHAREST 1583 EXCEPT FOR HIS INCLUDING OPREA. (WE THINK BUREAU IS NOW FIXED AT CEAUSESCU, BODNARAS, MANEA MANESCU, RADULESCU, DRAGANESCU, PANA, VERDET, ANDREI, BURTICA AND DALEA (OR WHOEVER IS TRADE UNION HEAD) WITH OPREA APPARENTLY NOW IN BUT NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE IS FORMALLY FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OR NOT). RADULESCU ATTRIBUTED HIS OWN INCLUSION IN BUREAU SOLELY FOR HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS GOR REP TO COMECON.

6. NEW PERMANENT BUREAU IS ALREADY MEETING REGULARLY; STEFAN ANDREI TOLD YUGOSLAV COUNSELLOR RECENTLY THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ONE OF ITS MEETINGS.

7. COMMENT: NAMES OF THOSE RUMORED TO BE ON WAY TO DEMOTIONS (MIZIL, DUMITRU POPESCU, DALEA AND EVEN MACOVESCU) HAVE CERTAIN LOGIC ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SPECIFICS, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING RUMOR THAT DUMITRU POPESCU WOULD REPLACE BOGDAN IN WASHINGTON. MIZIL AND POPESCU HAVE CLEARLY BEEN ON SKIDS FOR SOME TIME; DALEA IS A "HAS BEEN" WHO ONCE HAD DISTINCTION OF BEING ONE OF TWO PARTY SECRETARIES UNDER GHEORGHIIU-DEJ IN EARLY 1960'S (OTHER WAS CEAUSESCU) AND MACOVESCU HAS BEEN RUMORED TO BE AT ODDS WITH STEFAN ANDREI AND UNSURE OF HIS POSITION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD CONCLUDE BY NOTING THAT EVIDENCE FOR THIS LATTER RUMORED CHANGE OF MACOVESCU IS PARTICULARLY WEAK IN SOURCING

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(DESPITE FLURRY IT IS CAUSING); THE FREQUENCY AND SOMETIMES STARTLING NATURE OF THE RUMORS DO, ON THE OTHER HAND, REFLECT INTENSE POLITICAL CHURNING BEHIND THE SCENES, IN OUR VIEW.

BARNES

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